

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1971

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: WAGE QUESTION STILL UNRESOLVED

1. LABOR AGITATION IN SUPPORT DEMANDS FOR ADDITIONAL WAGE INCREASES CONTINUES TO PLAGUE GOA. UNIONS WHICH SIGNED PARITARIAS FOR INCREASES SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN THOSE LATER OBTAINED BY MAJOR UNIONS ARE SEEKING TO EQUAL THOSE LATTER INCREASES. ACTIONS INCLUDE ATTEMPTED RENEGOTIATION OF CONTRACTS, WHICH HAS BEEN REJECTED BY MINLABOR, STRIKES BY UNIONS AND OR AD HOC WORKERS' COMMITTEES IN SUPPORT RENEGOTIATION CONTRACTS, AND PLANT LEVEL CONFLICTS SEEKING ADDITIONAL INCREASES ON BASIS RISE IN COST OF LIVING.

2. TO SUPPORT DEMANDS RENEGOTIATION CONTRACTS, MEAT WORKERS FEDERATION (FGPICDYA) AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (UOCRA) WILL STRIKE JULY 23 IF DEMANDS NOT MET. COMMERCIAL WORKERS (CGECRA) ARE HOLDING SPOT WORK STOPPAGES TO SUPPORT THEIR DEMANDS. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DOWN DURING PAST WEEK BY AD HOC STRIKES IN SUPPORT DEMANDS FOR 100 PERCENT WAGE INCREASES ABOVE THAT NEGOTIATED BY UNION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOME NEWSPAPERS HAVE ACCEDDED TO WORKERS' DEMANDS. GOA HAS STILL NOT ANNOUNCED FINAL SALARY SCALE FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

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3. COMMENT. GRANTING OF INCREASES OF UP TO 150 PERCENT TO POLITICALLY POWERFUL UNIONS WHILE HOLDING LESS INFLUENTIAL UNIONS TO UNDER 100 PERCENT CONTRAVENES PERONIST ECONOMIC/SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY. LIKELY RESOLUTION IS FOR OTHER WORKERS TO OBTAIN MAJORITY OF THEIR DEMANDS AND FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO OBTAIN A MINIMUM 100 PERCENT INCREASE. LABOR LEADERSHIP AWARE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS SUCH WAGE INCREASES WILL CAUSE IN BUSINESSES. THEY ANTICIPATE A MARKED INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT, BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, AS UNAVOIDABLE CONSEQUENCE. A MAJOR UNRESOLVED QUESTION IS HOW THE GOA WILL BE ABLE TO MEET ITS BURGEONING PAYROLL IN VIEW ITS CURRENT FISCAL CRISIS.

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Message Attributes

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